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Letter dated 12 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour, in my capacity as the current Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to transmit herewith a copy of a press statement issued at the end of a one-day mini ECOWAS summit held in Accra on 11 November 2003.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. The Heads of State and Government of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo met in Accra on 11 November 2003 for consultations on the political and security situation in West Africa, and in particular the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

2. They were of the view that close and harmonious relations amongst the States of West Africa would be greatly beneficial to the subregion. They therefore pledged to build good neighbourly relations and to promote peace and stability in the subregion.

3. Regarding the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the President and the Prime Minister undertook to work closely together to ensure that the Government of National Reconciliation is able to function as a team. They also undertook to implement the programme of work drawn up by the Government of National Reconciliation.

4. They agreed on the need to guarantee the security of the members of the Government of National Reconciliation. To this end, 80 additional gendarmes are to be deployed within 7 days to augment the personal security of the Ministers of the Government of National Reconciliation.

5. The Heads of State and Government reminded the political class of their responsibility towards curbing the excesses of the media. They therefore requested the political forces and leaders in control of the media organs to take the necessary steps and prevail on the media to act in conformity with the code of ethics of their profession and, together with civil society, to contribute effectively to the reinforcement of the national reconciliation process and to the return of social cohesion in Côte d'Ivoire.

6. The Heads of State and Government appealed to the United Nations Security Council to consider the possibility of increasing the strength of the ECOWAS Mission in Côte d'Ivoire and transform it into a United Nations peacekeeping force.